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THE
ACADEMIC:

OR A

DISPUTATION

On the STATE of the
University of CAMBRIDGE,

AND THE

Propriety of the Regulations made in it,
on the 11th Day of May, and the 26th
Day of June 1750.



*Neque nostræ disputationes quicquam aliud agunt,
nisi ut in utramq; partem dicendo et audiendo
eliciant et quasi exprimant, quod aut verum sit
aut ad id quam maxime accedat.*

TULLY.



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THE
ACADEMIC:
OR, A
DISPUTATION
ON THE
University of CAMBRIDGE.

WE had an Account last Summer, in one of the publick Papers, of some Laws which the Senate of *Cambridge* had been making, in order to retrench their Expences, and reform the Manners of the Youth in that University. It was said too that several other Laws, equally useful and necessary, had been proposed, but some

jealous Suspicions accidentally entertained by the Body, that the Heads were endeavouring to extend their Perogative, prevented them from receiving its Sanction, till these Suspicions by some unhappy Expedient should be removed. Some Time afrer this, a second Advertisement appeared, in which the chief Managers of the Regulations were accused of artful and unfair Proceedings. It was insinuated that these rejected Orders were to be a second Time considered, and to secure a Majority, the absent Members of the Senate were to be call'd in from all Quarters, at a Time when they who usually reside in the University were in the Country. But we were given to expect, that a full Account of the new Regulations, and of every Thing that relates to them would be laid before the World; if what the Writer of the Advertisement but then suspected, should afterwards be confirmed.

I know not what others might think of these Advertisements, but they engaged my Attention very strongly at the Time of their Publication, and the more so, when it appear'd, that at least one Part of the Production in the latter, was soon after follow'd by the Event it had foretold. Upon this, I was in hopes we should soon see the promis'd Account of this Reformation ; supposing that the Advertiser must at least be as well acquainted with the Designs of his own Party, as he could pretend to be with those of his Adversaries. Not that an impartial one could be expected ; for the Parties in a Dispute are commonly too much engaged in it to speak the Truth, free from any corrupt Mixture. But as one Account would probably have been follow'd by another from the opposite Side, a pretty exact Knowledge of the Dispute might have been collected, by comparing the different Representations of the two contending Parties.

And this Information the Publick seems to have a Right to, independent of that Obligation the Advertiser has laid upon himself by his Promise. For whatever affects the general State of the Universities, cannot be indifferent to the Kingdom; whilst our Leaders in Religion and Government continue to be educated in them, their Laws and Discipline, must necessarily concern Men of every Order and Condition. I was much pleased therefore with the Hopes of seeing so important a Business publickly canvass'd; and as much mortify'd, when I found my Hopes were likely to be disappointed. For as four or five Months are now pass'd, and no Account has yet appear'd, there seems Reason to conclude, either that none was ever intended, or, if there was such an Intention, that it has since been laid aside. But of the two Opinions, many will rather incline to the first, and be apt to ascribe the latter Advertisement to the Malice or Artifice of Party, which has ever delighted in throwing unjust,

just, and odious Reflections, upon its Adversaries. And indeed, by their particular Attention to the State of these Societies, many of late, seem fully sensible, how much the Nation is interested in them.

For my own Part, this Disappointment of publick Information has been made up to me in a different Manner. For both at the Time, when a publick Account was expected, and since all Hopes of that kind have been laid aside, whenever an Opportunity of conversing upon this Subject has offer'd itself, I have seldom fail'd to make Use of it. And it has been my good Fortune to meet with Gentlemen on both Sides the Question, very capable of representing the Sentiments of their respective Parties. The Opinions of their Adversaries they indeed were commonly either ignorant of, or else seem'd to think them extremely insignificant. This private Information did not however please me so well, as an open and publick Controversy. For tho' the Accounts I received, were probably less artfully disguised,

guised, than if they had been prepared for a publick Inspection, and served well enough, to satisfy my own private Curiosity ; yet many are much interested in this Controversy, who cannot have equal Opportunities of informing themselves about it ; and others, who want not Opportunities, may yet want Curiosity, to make proper Inquiries. In this respect, had a Pamphlet or two been publish'd, they would have been manifestly preferable to private Accounts. For they very justly would have raised a Curiosity, where there was none before, and have afforded a more general and easy Satisfaction, to those in whom this Curiosity had been already raised. The more I think of them, the greater the Uses of such Controversy appear, and they have at length raised my Enthusiasm to such a Pitch, that I am tempted to lead the Way in it.

As I only pretend to have had my Information by Tradition, I could wish the Opinions of the Publick to rest upon more original Evidence ; but at present, that seems to be rather the Object of our Wishes
than

than our Expectations. And besides, tho' I cannot pretend to have been an Eye or Ear Witness of the Things I relate ; yet *they* may, from whom I had the chief Part of this Intelligence. How much of its Credibility it is likely to lose, in passing through my Hands, I leave to the present Controversialists in Religion to determine. But I flatter myself, that by some peculiar good Fate, this Account, whether True or False, must must however be useful : If true, as the Subject is important, it cannot fail ; if False, it will probably be the Cause of our coming to the Truth ; and what is of more Consequence, a Cause without which, we should not have been able to come at it at all. For if after all the Pains, which have been taken in Collecting these Materials, they should prove either false or imperfect, it will be a convincing Proof, how insufficient private Accounts are for this Purpose, and publick ones, as we have observ'd, were hardly to be expected : But now when the State of the University, the new Laws, and the

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contending Parties are all, or any of them, thus publickly misrepresented, there is not much Danger that the Mistakes will pass without proper Animadversions; as there are many of both Parties, who certainly want not Abilities, and whom one would unwillingly suspect of wanting a Disposition to undertake so necessary a Task. As this Design therefore, seems upon every Supposition, and upon every probable Event, to be calculated for the general Interest, both of the Nation and University; I shall enter upon it with Pleasure, notwithstanding the Effect it may have upon the publick Reputation of some particular Persons. For the Interest of Individuals should always give Place to the Interest of the Publick, when they are not consistent; and one is much less concerned for the Hardship, when it falls to their Share, who, from opposite Principles, have been instrumental in separating them.

As

As to the Gentlemen who furnished these Materials, they, I dare say, will excuse the Use I have made of them. For though it must be unexpected, at the Time of our Conversation, yet I do not remember that I am under any Injunctions of Secrecy. To publish the Information they favoured me with, may be contrary to their Expectations ; but I have no Reason to think it contrary to their Inclinations. For both Parties appear perfectly satisfied of the Equity of their Cause : And I will endeavour that their Arguments may lose as little as possible of their Force in my Hands. But though I oblige myself thus faithfully to adhere to their Substance, the same Exactness in the Form and Manner of the Conversation I am to relate, will not be expected : I here shall take the Liberty of connecting the dis-jointed Parts, which have been picked up at various Times, and from various Persons, into such a Whole, as the Nature of the Subject requires, agreeable to this Plan.

ΑΡΧΗΝ ΠΡΩΤΟΝ ΠΟΙΗΤΕΟΝ ΗΠΕΡ
 ΠΕΡΥΚΕΝ ΑΡΧΗ ΤΑΥΤΗΣ ΤΗΣ
 ΨΕ ΠΙΣΕΩΣ.

The Beginning which Nature prescribes in this Inquiry, is the present State of the University: For unless this be first understood, it will be a Rashness to judge whether any Regulations are wanted in it, and more so to determine upon the Use and Propriety of particular Ones. How much depends upon this first Principle, is evident from the very different Accounts, which are given of it by the two Parties. The Gentlemen on the Side of the Regulations, represent the present Learning and Discipline of the University in the most melancholick and dejected Condition; while Extravagance and Immorality are drawn in triumphant Attitudes, easily baffling the united Efforts of their Authority to suppress them. To support this Charge, a Variety of Facts are appealed to. The numerous Severities successively exercised in *forty nine*, they alledge as undeniable Proofs of the incorrigible Obstinacy of their Youth. For these

these Severities are too publick and too recent to be doubted of, and the Crimes which extorted them too flagrant to admit of an Excuse. If any Excuse could have been made for them, the * Vice Chancellor, they say, would readily have been their Advocate. But he who shielded Alma Mater with such Courage and Skill from the envenomed Shafts of Malice and Ignorance, would not oppose himself to the superior Force of Truth ; when *she* came to the Attack, he was instantly unmanned ; what was Ardour and Energy in him before, at Sight of her, dissolved into Womanish Complaint. Who then will presume to defend what he was obliged to give up ? Who will contend where he was forced to supplicate ? Who is so partially fond of the University, as still to continue blind to her Faults ? If there be any such, farther Evidence is not wanted. We can add to this,

* Dr. Chapman, in his Speech at the Installation of the Chancellor.

the Testimony of one, who will not surely be suspected of bringing a false Accusation against his Brethren at a Time, when he had before his Eyes, and under his Consideration, some Effects of Calumny, the most Exemplary that Story has recorded. When he was making his Court to a Patron, who he knew would resent, in the warmest Manner, any unjust Aspersions upon a Society with which he is so strictly and so honourably connected. *

But why should we rest our Cause on any single Authority, however unexceptionable, when we have the concurrent Voices of the whole Senate, all of them speaking the same Language, all of them invoking the Aid and Interposition of their new Chancellor, in the same Breath which declared him elected ? Had the Complaints against

* See Mr. *Garnet's* Dedication of his Discourse on Job, to his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, Chancellor of the University of CAMBRIDGE. •

the Discipline of the University been unjust, they would not have been confirmed by its Senate. Had the Evils complained of been any longer supportable, they would not have been laid open upon this Occasion. For the Evidence of Men against themselves leaves no Doubt of their Guilt. And what else can the Letter from the Senate to their Chancellor be esteemed? The deplorable State of the University could hardly fail of suggesting to him, that either Prudence or Vigilance had been wanted in its Governors. But who ever industriously unveils his Defects, at his first Appearance before a Patron, to whose Favour and Protection he desires to recommend himself, unless when the least Concealment of them would unavoidably undo him?

These are, I think, the principal Reasons which are brought to prove, that the University stands in Need of a Reformation in its Morals and Discipline.

In Answer to them, it is said by Persons of a different Opinion, that notwithstanding the specious Appearance of this Reasoning, it will not bear the Test of a severe Examination. Many of the Facts they allow, but dispute the Conclusions which depend upon them. They will not even grant, that the Testimony of the Senate, though against itself, is a sufficient Decision of the Matter in debate. But the Reasons which are urged for the Truth of its Representation to the Chancellor, they retort, and insist upon them as the Cause which made a Majority assent to it, though conscious of its Falshood. To unravel this Paradox, they tell you, that their Governors are no Strangers to the Art of coupling Things together, which have no natural Agreement: and that in Consequence and Support of this Art, they have long practised with wonderful Success, a political Maxim well known in the World; which has taught them, by odious Appellations, to deter such as might otherwise be hardy enough to examine into their incoherent Compositions:

sitions: But of all others of this Kind, the Letter to the Chancellor is represented as their Master-peice.

The Working up of the State of the University into the same Peice with the congratulatory Address, was an effectual Method, and the only one, that could have been invented of rendring it sacred. For to have arraigned it in such Company, would have been looked upon as a Breach of Privilege, and so highly disrespectful to the Chancellor, that nothing farther would have been wanting to prove him, who had been guilty of such a Peice of Rudenesf, a Friend to the *P— of W—*, or the *P——r*, or perhaps to both; rather therefore than bear the Ignominy of such Imputations, many submitted to see the University abused, and what is worse, they joined in the Abuse. It is urged indeed in their Behalf, that at that Time they were not fully apprehensive of the bad Consequences of so timid a Conduct. For the Necessity of a Reformation always, they say, has been, and is likely to continue, the Cant of many in the

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University. And though it seemed at this Time more than usually insisted upon, and more than either Reason or good Manners would allow on such an Occasion ; yet this was wholly imputed to the intemperate Zeal of * one Man, or the frothy turgid Eloquence of another. They forgot indeed that others, who were out of the University, and not so well acquainted with their Characters, might be apt to assign it to a different Cause.

But if it be thought improbable, that the Heads should use such mean Arts to intimidate the Senate for Ends, not only unjust, but detrimental to themselves, you are told, that they who took the Lead in this Affair, were but lately come into Authority ; that they could not therefore, as the Objection supposes, be answerable for the past Discipline of the University. But on the

* The Sentiments in Letters of this Kind are said to be dictated by the Vice-Chancellor, but the Language is the Orator's Province.

contrary,

contrary, great Reputation might be acquired, and great Rewards expected from Reforming the Blunders of their Predecessors. And Inducements, such as these, have tempted Men in all Ages, and of all Ranks, to mean Actions, which makes it less surprising that they have not at present intirely lost their Influence: Nay, it would have been surprising had they not operated in the Manner they did, as the Design, however iniquitous in itself, had in it all the Probability of Success that the most sanguine Expectations could desire.

For, as by Turning the dark Side of Things, to those they were aiming to deceive; and whose Zeal for the Good of the University made them, in this Respect, the more liable to be deceived; they were sure to convince them of the Necessity of a Reformation; so when their Scheme had taken Effect, and the Regulations were once made, it was an easy Matter to withdraw the Veil, and open different Prospects to their View.

The Oeconomy, Learning, and Morals of the University, might then be placed in their proper and true Situations ; and displayed in their native Colours. And as such wonderful Changes could be attributed to nothing, but the successful Labours of the Legislators ; what then could remain, but for them to reap the plentiful Rewards of so much Merit ? Bishopricks, Deaneries, and Golden Prebends, they fancied would be distributed in Proportion to their Services ; and well might they stretch every Nerve, and practise every shameful Art, to enhance these Services, and extend them to such ample Measures.

But besides the Reasonableness and Equity of these Expectations, the Interests of Religion, and the State, without Doubt, make it necessary they should not be disappointed : For when they had settled the University so securely, that its future Management might be committed to Men of ordinary Capacities, suitable Employment could nowhere be found, for such exalted Spirits, till they

they were called up, to shine in higher Senates, and higher Convocations ; where they might have full Liberty of exercising their law-making Talents, and conferring fresh Obligations on Mankind. Intoxicated with such enchanting Prospects, the Reformers, and who can blame them, rushed to the Undertaking, in Defiance of Truth, and Despite of all Opposition

But they for the Opposers say, from Looking upon the Whole, as a deliberate Project of calumniating the University, purely for the Reputation, and the Reward of *apparently* reforming it. They graciously allow Ignorance, as well as selfish Design, its Share of the Merit. For the Punishments in *forty nine* might, they say, do something towards convincing the Understandings of those that inflicted them, that the University was in a wretched Condition. Though without examining into the Propriety of the Punishments, which yet have been thought *far* more Severe, than any of the reasonable Ends of Punishment can warrant ; or the Nature of the Offences could

could require : There are others, who think it impossible to condemn the whole University for five or six such Examples, as such a Sentence would be founded on a Kind of *Evidence*, which would be regarded by no fair Judge, that is not ignorant of the Proportion, such a Part bears to the Whole ; this being in Effect, to punish Men without Evidence, or for Crimes, which they have not committed : A Practice which prevails in *very few* Courts of Judicature at present.

It is acknowledged indeed, that there are *now*, as there *always have been*, some Gentlemen of Independent Fortunes ; who, wanting Abilities, or Inclinations, to pursue the useful Studies and Amusements of the Place, in Spite of the best Laws, and what is of more Consequence, in Spite of the best Execution of them, will break out into foolish Extravagancies.

But this is by no Means general, even amongst them : On the contrary, Numbers of present, and very recent Examples might be

be produced ; where the Behaviour, and Improvements, of young Gentlemen of the first Rank and Fortune, in every Respect, deserve the highest Applause ; and could not fail, were they fairly attended to, of doing solid Credit to the Discipline of the University.

And in general they are so far from owning, that Learning declines, or Vice gains Ground in the University, that they strenuously maintain the contrary is evident to all impartial and careful Observers. For though the Irregularities complained of, were peculiar to the present Times, as they are not, yet they would be abundantly attested for, by Reformations of various other Kinds. There was a Time, when the grossest Epicurism was reckoned a principal Enjoyment of Life ; and if this false Taste has been corrected in the University, somewhat later than ordinary ; or if even yet, some Vestiges of it are seen, it will not be wondered at, by those who reflect, that considerable Benefactions have, by their Donors, been appropriated to luxurious Uses.

But

But though Intemperance has these In-couragements, yet Modesty and Sobriety, in a few Years, have made a swift Progress amongst all Orders.

The Money, which by one Part of the University, was formerly spent in midnight Drinkings, to the Ruin of their Health and Constitutions, is now employed in Securing themselves against those Complaints, to which a by sedentary and studious Course of Life, they are particularly exposed. And the Expences of the Students, which after the Example of their Leaders, were laid out to much the same Purposes, are now diverted to a different Chanel. A Taste for Musick, modern Languages, and other the polite Entertainments of the Gentleman, have succeeded to Clubs, and *Bacchanalian Routs.*

These Accomplishments are not, indeed, to be had at the same easy Rate with *Ale and Tobacco*; and this has furnished fresh Matter

Matter of general Complaint, against the Expences of the University. But we are persuaded, that Parents, who are not themselves destitute of all Taste, and whose Fortunes will admit of such Expences, cannot think they are employed to no Purpose. If any are of a different Opinion, they may easily prevent them; for these are not the Essentials, but the Ornaments of an Academical Education. And as to the necessary Expences, as far as the general Improvements in Dress and Urbanity, will allow, they are rather diminished than augmented, by a narrower Inspection into old prescriptive Perquisites, and the other Parts of Oeconomy, than the indolent Disposition of former Times would permit them to make.

And as to Learning, they challenge the Reformers to instance any Period, when its different Branches were in a more flourishing Condition: Mathematicks, and Natural Philosophy, are so generally, and so exactly understood, that more than twenty in every Year, of the Candidates for a Bachelor of Arts Degree, are able to demonstrate the prin-

principal Propositions in the *Principia*; and most other Books of the first Character on those Subjects. Nay, several of this Number, they tell you, are no Strangers to the *higher Geometry*, and the more difficult Parts of the Mathematicks: And others, who are not of this Number, are yet well acquainted with the Experiments and *Appearances in natural Science*.

In Morality, Metaphysicks, and Natural Religion, the Authors, whose *Notions* are the most Accurate, and Intelligible are generally read, and well understood by many, before they are admitted to this Degree. Logic, they allow, to be at present, rather more neglected than it deserves; as Men but too commonly run into opposite Extremes; but the Error, they say, begins to be perceived, and will probably be of no long Duration.

And as this Progress in Academical Literature, is to be made in a little more than three Years; it is a *strong Proof*, that the Students in Arts, who are much the greatest Number, had they no other Employ,

ployment, could not, in general, spend their Time either viciously, idly, or unprofitably. But at the same Time, *that* the Sciences are thus successfully studied, ancient and modern Languages are not neglected. It is no unusual Thing, for the same Persons to be eminently skilful in both. And many, who cannot endure the intense Application required in the Sciences, study Languages with Pleasure and Improvement. But, as in these there are no publick and general Examinations, it cannot, with so much Certainty be known, whether they are better or worse understood, than they formerly have been. Improvements, one would imagine, were hardly to be expected; and yet, if we may be allowed to judge, from the Productions, with which the World has of late been favoured by that learned Body, there is Reason to think, that ancient, and critical Learning, are cultivated with remarkable Success. For if we may believe *Longinus*, a Skill in this Kind of Literature,

ΠΟΛΛΗΣ ΕΣΤΙ ΠΕΙΡΗΣ ΤΕΛΕΩΤΑΝΟΝ
ΕΠΙΓΓΕΝΗΜΑ :

Is the latest Offspring of long Experience ; and yet, some in the University of Cambridge, very early in Life, and in their very first Essays, have shown themselves formidable Rivals to the most veteran Criticks.

And in general, whoever considers the Performances, which, of late, have been written by Gentlemen of *Cambridge*, will not easily be persuaded, that the Authors of them, either spend their own Time idly, or are likely to suffer Idleness, in those that are under their Direction. But it is our Misfortune, say these Advocates for the University, that many, both of our own Members, and in the World, for different Ends indeed, are very fond of drawing general Conclusions, from a few accidental Facts. If a Window or two be broken, once or twice in a Year, the Noise of it flies directly thro' the Kingdom; and more than one Half of those who hear it, instantly cry out, that all Discipline,
and

and Decorum in the University are absolutely at an End. Whilst the silent Watchings of its Midnight Students, and the judicious Management of its Honours, which can inspire into their young Breasts so noble a Spirit of industrious Ambition, pass unpraised and unregarded. *

The two Parties, who favoured me with these opposite Sentiments, I hope, will both of them find, that I have here given a

* Reflecting on this Account of the University, I wondered that no Notice should be taken of their Poets ; as some Peices of the Elegiac, Lyric, and Dramatic Kinds, from *Cambridge*, have lately been well received by the Publick. But I suppose, they either proceed on *Horace's* Maxim, *Poeta nascitur non fit* ; and, if so, the Discipline of the University can claim no Share in the Merit of these Performances ; Or else their Authors must have been amongst the Reformers ; for they are very sparing of their Allotments of *Genius*, as well as *Honesty*, to that whole Party.

faithful Copy of their *respective* Opinions, My other Readers may perhaps *think*, that I should have done no Difservice to one of them, had I softened the Severity of their Censures; as they may proceed from the Rage of disappointed Opposition, as well as from the pretended Injuries they so warmly complain of. But be this as it will, all I pretend to, is to sum up the Evidence on both Sides of the Cause, whilst others are left to pass Sentence upon its Merits; which I need not however desire them to suspend, till they have heard what remains to be said on the other Points in dispute.

With these preparatory Helps, we may now proceed to enquire into the Propriety of the present Regulations. But as this must depend upon the State of the University, which we have not however ourselves presumed to settle; it may be necessary to argue upon the two different Opinions in their Turn.

And

And first, let us suppose, with the Reformers, that some Kind of Regulations are wanted. Upon this Position, there is strong Presumption, that the Laws in dispute are well calculated to correct the Evils complained of; as they were contrived by those, whom superior Merit has raised to the most eminent Stations in the University; where they have had the fairest Opportunity of observing the true Nature of the Distempers, for which they undertake to prescribe. And who, besides the Advantage of their own Abilities and Experience, have been assisted by Persons of the first Character in the Nation, long versed in the Arts of Government and Legislation. Agreeable to what we are led to expect from the established Reputation of their Authors, we find the Regulations themselves.

They exactly describe the reigning Faults, against which they are aimed, so as to leave no Room for evasive Distinctions. By ascertaining the Penalties to be inflicted upon each Fault,

Fault, they effectually guard against all Arbitrary and unequal Proceedings. And the Penalties are such, as may reasonably be expected, to give Weight and Efficacy to their Laws. These, if not the only Properties of good Laws, are by far the most Important; and Laws, that have these Properties, ought by no Means to be rejected, where they are so much wanted, as in the University.

To the presumptive Parts of this Argument, others of the like Nature are opposed. The Manner of conducting these Regulations quite through from the Beginning to the End, is said to be very exceptionable: In a Case of this Importance, it may reasonably be supposed, the Reformers, had the Interest of the University really at Heart; that the Sentiments of *Tutors* and *Deans* of Colleges would have been taken, as their Situation and intimate Connection with the young Students, make them the best Judges of those Facts, on which such Kind of Regulations ought to proceed.

But

But instead of this, they were never once consulted, till after the Laws had been made, revised by the Chancellor, and were sent down to the publick Body of the Senate: Till they found themselves under the most disagreeable Necessity, either of voting for what they could not approve, or else of *apparently* opposing the Man they were the most inclined to oblige, their Chancellor; of whose Affection for the University, they had the strongest Assurance; and whose Inclinations they could not, without the utmost Reluctance, refuse to comply with. And this, notwithstanding, they conceived *his* Consent had been procured by Misrepresentation; and tho' they saw themselves provoked by the most Injurious Treatment.

For after many of them had laboured, with so much Success, to remove real Complaints, promote real Learning, and good Manners, by a diligent Examination into perplexed Accounts, and by constant Lectures in every Part of Knowledge; to have the Pains they had taken, scandalously mis-

misrepresented, by those, who are every way unqualified to have made the least of these Improvements, is a Provocation, fully sufficient to irritate the mildest and most forgiving Tempers.

But their Resentments, when the most inflamed, were ever directed towards their proper Objects. They always approved of every Part of their *Chancellor's* Conduct in this Affair ; they had the most grateful Sentiments of the Obligations they were under to him ; and it was not the least of their Mortifications, that they were not allowed to express them, in that * general and publick Manner they desired.

* One of the Demagogues carried up a Grace, in which it was moved, that the Chancellor should be thanked by the Senate, for the affectionate Regard he had shewn for the University on this Occasion. The Vice Chancellor, Dr. K——e, did *condescend*, as they are pleased to express themselves, to lay it before that *Caput*, where it was stopt by a staunch Friend to the Orders.

But

But should the Guardians of the University, like the Guardians in *Plato's Republick*, be supposed to have a certain Quantity of Gold infused into their Composition, as soon as their Authority commences ; and should they farther be allowed to be rightly informed of the State of their Government, as far as bare Facts are concerned ; yet are there some Things, in which it is not improbable, their Opinions may be too much under the Influence of their Imaginations. For from whatever Cause it proceeds, many Things, innocent in themselves, are looked upon by old Men, as the surest Marks of corrupt and degenerate Manners. But this Frailty, though in some Degree the common Lot of old Age ; yet they, whose Acquaintance with the different Customs of Mankind is the most narrow and contracted, are above all others the most subject to it. By a Life sequestred from the World, and spent within the Precincts of a College, Men frequently acquire this

Quality of old Age, long before they have any Claim to the rest.

For should its other Symptoms advance in the same Pace, Age in the World and the University, must be computed by very different Measures ; and Men who had scarce reached the twentieth Year from their Admission, would be found to vie with the long-lived *Grecian* Sage. But it may be said, that their enlarged Experience, who had the Revisal of the new Laws, is a sufficient Guard against the Defects which might arise from the narrow Prejudices of the original Compilers. And it is readily acknowledged, that very great Improvements were made by this Revisal : But as the Revisors had their Information only by Report, and many of them were not immediately concerned, to suppose them unwilling to make every Alteration that might be wanted, can be no Reflection upon their Judgments.

But

But to leave these presumptive Probabilities for Arguments more direct ; let us consider some of the Regulations themselves : And as those that regard Dress, stand first in Order, we will begin with them. To intirely prohibit Lace in the University, may be expedient, if it be reasonable to debar some of its Members from Expenses, which their Fortunes will admit of ; lest others, by their Example, should be tempted to Extravagancies. But how shall we reconcile it to Common Sense, that they, who are prohibited from wearing Lace upon one Part of their Dress, should be compelled to wear it upon another ? And why, of all others, must this be their Academical Habits ? All Compulsion that is only necessary to gratify the Humour of those in Power, is unreasonable in itself. And in what other Respect can it be necessary, to load a Fellow-Commoner with twenty or thirty Yards of Lace ? Is it to distinguish him from others of a different Rank ? That Distinction might surely be

contrived at a much easier and less expensive Rate.

But perhaps we ought not to inquire for the Reason of this Law, in its *Utility* it may be purely a Matter of *Ornament*, in which only Taste is concerned. Be it so. But must it not make one laugh, that they who are shocked at the Shade of a primary Colour, and cannot bear to see the least Speck of Lace on a Coat or a Waistcoat, should oblige a Fellow-Commoner to blazon twenty or thirty Yards on a purple Gown? Or is it a Matter of sufficient Consequence, to embroil a whole University about? How whimsical a Thing is Taste! What strange Work doth it make, when promoted to the Office of Legislation! But if it be so inconsistent with itself in the same Man's Person, what are we to expect from it in different Persons? Need we wonder, that one Man would prohibit his Scholars from Tying their Hair, because it gives them a military Look? Another, because it gives them an effeminate One?

That

That this Man's Aversion should be Scarlet, whilst another thinks every Colour sup-
portable but the pale Violet ?

But this Variety of Opinions must how-
ever be confessed, has prevented a World of
Absurdity ; as it has been the Means of
Leaving the Laws, which relate to Colours
and Dress, more indeterminate and lax than
they otherwise would have been. And it
is to be wished, it had had the same Effect
in some others, that are much more Im-
portant. To mention only one of them.
The Law which forbids Riding, to all un-
der the Degree of *M. A.* or other Degrees
of the same Rank, wants, it is said, some
Latitude of the like Nature. For the Con-
sequences of this Law, as it now stands,
are upon all Suppositions likely to be very
pernicious. *For*, if it be not observed, the
Contempt it must bring upon all Autho-
rity, will certainly be prejudicial to the
Discipline of the University : And this is
no improbable Supposition ; as it hardly
can be expected, that Men of three or four
and twenty Years of Age, every Time their
Busi-

Business or Inclination leads them to take a Ride, should submit to beg this Favour from the Courtesy of another; especially, as no great Caution or Art can be wanted to avoid a Discovery, should they neglect to procure a legal Permission.

But Example is of a contagious Quality, and may soon catch amongst others, who at first, are more likely to brook so considerable a Diminution of their Liberty. It is not however very material, whether these Conjectures be probable or not, as the Consequences of this Law are not likely to be less hurtful, should it happen to have its due Force. For the Fault it is intended to correct, is so far from being General, that the greater Part of Under Graduates are already too Sedentary, as is evident from the low Spirits, and valetudinary Constitutions, so frequently to be met with, amongst those who reside in the University after their Degrees. The Students therefore should rather be encouraged to use more Exercise, than discouraged from using so much; as every such Discouragement, must

con-

contribute to increase their vapourish Complaints, and be in Danger of making them a Burden to Themselves and the Publick. It would be ridiculous to suppose, that this Law will restrain only such as would abuse their Liberty. He must be very ignorant of the Temper of Youth, and, indeed, of Mankind in general, who can make such a Supposition.

Nor is it more plausible, that there are Exercises enough, besides Riding, which may serve all its useful Purposes. For some of these are prohibited by the new Laws; and it would be very strange, if a Part should prove sufficient to do, what has hitherto not been done by the Whole.

This, and much more to the same Purpose, has been objected to the Regulations about *Exercise and Dress*, which the Reader will excuse my omitting, as he may perhaps think too much has already been said upon this Subject.

But

But the Articles which have been the most loudly exclaimed against, are those that seem the least liable to Exception. For who could have expected, that a Society chiefly made up of Divines, should refuse to enact penal Laws for the Suppression of Riots, Gaming and other Vices of a still grosser Kind? This, one would imagine, is too extravagant a Conduct to be imputed to the blind undistinguishing Spirit of Opposition; and it is apt in Spite of Inclination to create some Suspicions, that there must be at the Bottom, such a general Corruption of Manners, as the Governors of the University might well declare, that were unable to contend with. Upon hinting these Suspicions, and inquiring into the Reasons of so strenuous an Opposition to Laws of this Nature; I was told they were already in Force, and that whenever any Persons had been convicted of breaking them before the proper Judges, they were punished, as the Examples in *forty nine* will witness, in the Manner these Laws prescribed. Had there
been

been no such Laws in the University, they acknowledge my Suspicions would have had but too plausible a Colour : But as it is, they assert with great Indignation, that the most flagrant Injury has been done, either to the present Members of the Senate, or the Memory of their Predecessors.

As all who are not acquainted with the University must necessarily conclude, either that no such Laws, as are lately passed, have ever been in Force, or if they were, that they are now grown obsolete, by the Corruption of those who are intrusted with their Execution. All Civil Governments, they acknowledge, are obliged to make Changes in their Laws ; but these Changes bring no unjust Scandal, either upon their former Governours, or the present Subjects in these Governments. Whereas new Laws made in the University, against Vice and Immorality, without taking Notice of them already in Being, must, as has been said, make them, who are unacquainted with it, conclude, either that there are no such

Laws, or that Vice pleads Impunity by Prescription: And as this, were it true, would make the University justly odious in the Eyes of the Nation, how much they have to answer for, who, by acting upon weak or wicked Principles, have fixed this Scandal upon it, though clear of the Guilt.

The Advocates of the new Laws say, in Answer to this violent Accusation, That notwithstanding the University had Laws against the Vices above mentioned, yet many, to whose Opinions the utmost Regard is due, made great Complaints against its Discipline; something was therefore necessary to be done, that Opinions so disadvantageous to it might be removed. But the Opposition, far from being softened by this Account of the Matter, say, it is no Wonder this Opinion should be entertained, after so much Pains had been taken to inculcate it, by those who wanted to make a Merit of having it thought, that in their frailer Years they had escaped without a

Taint,

Taint, amidst so general an Infection ; and in their maturer Age expected to be bountifully rewarded for labouring to reform Irregularities, whose Existence is only in their Imaginations. For as to what they pretend about Removing the Prejudices entertained against the University ; this Design, they say, is of a Piece with all the Rest of their Conduct ; so full of Absurdity, that it must needs have a contrary Effect to what it aims at, and establish what it pretends to remove. As it cannot be supposed the University would make such precautionary Laws, after having for so many Ages found them unnecessary.

But what is still worse, whilst the past and present Character of the University is thus traduced, and wantonly made a Victim to Opinions, which would easily have been changed by better Information ; its future Reputation is by no Means secured. For they who are thus taught to believe, that the Notions they have hitherto had of it are true, will not very readily change them

without better Reasons than these Regulations. They know, that Customs grown Inveterate are not to be broken merely by declaring them illegal : Laws are of little Force, if they be not strenuously executed.

It will therefore be natural for them to ask, what Improvements have been made in the executive Powers of the University? And whether in it, as well as in other Places, some Part of the Complaint does not arise from a negligent Execution? If it does, What Care has been taken to prevent this for the future? And this will be the more insisted upon, from what has already happened, since the new Laws were made. For though they are declared to be of immediate Obligation, yet one * of them, they say, has been constantly

* The Sixth Order, which enjoins Persons in *Statu Pupillari*, constantly attend St. Mary's Church.

broken in the Presence of the Vice Chancellor, the Heads of Houses, and the other Officers, and yet no Penalty inflicted on the Offenders.

To these Queries it is replied, that though nothing has been yet done to secure the Execution of the new Laws, it does not from thence follow, that nothing was intended. They did not, they say, propose the present as a compleat Body of Regulations, but designed by wary Steps, and after mature Deliberation, to make such other Improvements as should be found practicable and expedient. But the Obstinacy and Ingratitude of their Opposers have now taught them to turn their Thoughts to different Purposes. Of these Qualities they warmly complain, and in their Turn, charge their Opposers with Principles more blameable, if possible, than those which they themselves have been accused of. To submit his Opinions to their united Judgment, who suggested some of the Regulations, and approved of all the rest, can, they say, do dis-

discredit to no single Person ; as the best Evidence he can have, must leave in the Mind of every modest Man a sufficient Diffidence, when he has the Misfortune to dissent from such great Authorities.

But the Opposition, far from conducting themselves in this Manner, pertinaciously adhered to Opinions, which at best can but be problematical ; when they must be conscious, that their Behaviour would bring the Worst of Consequences to themselves and the University. When, indeed, all they could propose, must only be to convince their Patrons and Protectors, that they both despised their Favours themselves, and would do their utmost to prevent others from enjoying them. For to what else can their Spleen be imputed ? Had they paid any Regard to their Chancellor ; had they not intended openly to affront him, they would not have treated the Laws he recommended to them, in so contemptuous a Manner.

And

And if they had not been Enemies, both to the Nation and the University, they never could have been so notoriously wanting in Respect to him, who so zealously labours for the Interest of them both. Whatever their Professions may be, or however artfully they may cloke their true Principles, Disloyalty and Disaffection, ever ready to break out, when they have an Opportunity of doing Harm, must be at the Bottom. Not content with embroiling the Nation, or chagrin'd at its Disappointment, the subtil, restless Spirit of Jacobitism of late, has employed all its Force in the Universities; sensible that those Foundations of Education, if they be once thoroughly corrupted, will diffuse its Influence through the Land.

This Accusation, say the Opposers, has indeed had its Effect, and has executed the Part that was assigned it, with all the Success that could be desired : Numbers were
frigh-

frightened into Measures they detested, and a *Majority* in the *End* obtained.

But its very Success proves it to be unjust. For real Jacobites would not so easily have been terrified at the Name : And it is impolitick, as well as unjust ; calculated, like every Thing else the Regulators have done, to promote their own Interest, at the Expence of the King, the Chancellor, and the University. For *Jacobitism* and the *Pretender* are *dangerous Machines*, and though they may, on some Occasions, be introduced, to extricate us out of Difficulties, which human Wit and human Reason cannot surmount ; yet are they not to be fetched in on every such Occasion, and by every bungling Artist. For then, indeed, the *Reformers* would have the fairest Claim to their Assistance. But they are only to be trusted in judicious Hands, and to be introduced with the utmost Caution.

For should every petty Tyrant of a College, think himself at Liberty to play them on the University, whenever he has a poultry Job to carry ; however zealous he might seem for the Interest of the present Establishment, and the Chancellor, he certainly would do irreparable Difservice to them both. For when Men are thus expos'd on all Occasions to the Infamy and Disadvantage of Jacobitism, it would not be wonderful, if some of them in the End, by such unjust Sufferings, should be driven to the Guilt of it. For they who are deprived, both of the Reputation and the Incouragements due to good Subjects, must have steadier Principles and more generous Sentiments, than *many* of the Reformers can pretend to, if they preserve their Allegiance.

In such a Situation, the Reformers are sensible many, by repeated Injuries, may be made what they have been represented : They perceive this, and they exult in so glorious a Prospect. When all Men of Parts and Learning in the University, from whom they had any Thing to fear, are become real

or reputed Jacobites, and no-body left to stand in their Way, what spoils must they have to divide ! What a *Prey* for *themselves* ! What *Pickings* for their *Parasites* ! But whilst they are rejoicing in these Spoils, and decorated with these Trophies of Victory, he who bestowed them, will find but ill Returns for his Favours, when it appears, as it certainly will, that they who were employed to reform the University, have been corrupting it, that they have contrived to change Learning into Ignorance, and Loyalty into Disaffection : In short, when it appears, that the *real State* of the University they undertook to reform, was what they promised to make it ; and its *pretended Condition*, what they have now made in Reality.

For what preceded the Election of the Chancellor, and its remarkable Unanimity, are the strongest Proofs the University could then give, either of its Duty to the King, or its Affection to him. What Changes then, or what Revolutions have there been, to give Countenance to this malignant Charge ? Not the least Colour or Pretence for

for such a Calumny, previous to these Regulations. But the Heads, it seems, when they were proposed, did *direct* the Senate only to consider from whom they came; and thought it Presumption in private Persons to enquire into their Merits and Propriety.

Thus much be confessed: But then the Chancellor, in his * Letter to the University, gave them different Advice, and many have thought it a Hardship that the *Majority*, because they chose to be guided by him, should therefore be stigmatised with *Jacobitism*, and have their Names in the List of the Disloyal and Disaffected. They look upon it as unaccountable, that they who followed his Advice, should be accused of Disregard to the Chancellor, by those who thought themselves at Liberty to overlook it.

* The Passage alluded to in the Chancellor's Letter to the University, was in Words to this Effect: That he would not have the Judgment of the Senate influenced so much by considering from whom the Regulations came, as by their own intrinsick Nature and Quality.

But this betrays great Inexperience, for it is a Thing so unheard of, that they who are but Novices in Legislation, and have a seperate Interest from the Publick, should use every mean Art that may contribute to discourage an Examination of their own Laws? The Chancellor, indeed, could have no End in View, but the Interest of the University; and therefore he recommended a free Examination of the Laws he sent down to it. For he well knew, that the best Laws, if they be not enacted by a free and uninfluenced Consent of the Senate, can never promote that End.

Was Power always in the Hands of wise and good Men, the Loss of Liberty might possibly be dispensed with: But as this is not the Case, they who part with their Independency to the wisest and best Men, have generally Reason to repent so rash a Step. For Government must necessarily pass at some Time out of such Hands.

Should the Time then ever happen, when the University shall commit the Power of making Laws for it, to other Hands, whilst its Senate reserves only the Privilege of giving a ceremonial Assent to them ; this Power, which at first, will certainly be given to none but Men of the greatest Abilities, and the most approved Integrity, will soon become a necessary Appendage to an Office.

What in its Rise was a *Compliment* to Merit, will be claimed as a *Right* by Persons of no Merit ; and this Right will beget new Ones. They, who have thought themselves unfit to be trusted with Making their own Laws, in a short Time will be judged unfit to be trusted with the Election of their own Officers, that are to have the Execution of these Laws.

Masters and Fellows of Colleges, will then be appointed by Persons, who may judge themselves the most capable of filling up Places of such Consequence to the University. Perhaps the Nomination, for some Time, may

may fall upon Men of proper Qualifications; but this is not long to be expected. “*Novum illud exemplum ab dignis et idoneis, ad indignos et in idoneos transferetur.*” And, to aggravate the Servility of this Condition, *The Great* will then deem it an Obligation to accept, what in other Times they have courted as a *Favour*. The same Submission, the same Ceremony, which has hitherto been expected from the Solicitor, will then, alas! be required in the Giver.

It would be an easy Matter to trace the Consequences still farther ; we might show that the University, when it had brought itself into such a Condition, would not even be trusted with the Choice of its *menial Servants* ; that the Qualifications of a *Cook*, a *Butler*, or a *Baker*, would be thought too mysterious for the simple Capacity of the Fellows of a College to understand.

But

But why should we alarm ourselves with so wretched a Prospect, or enlarge upon a State which is only Hypothetical, and not likely to be otherwise, if we will but follow the excellent Counsel of our *Chancellor*, and never implicitly resign our Judgments to *great Names* ?

Thus do both Parties ransack every imaginable Topic, to support their Cause ; and so dexterous is their Management of them, that you are led by the same Means to quite opposite Conclusions. *The State of the University, the Opinion of the World, the Character and Authority of the Legislators*, all speak the Language, all maintain the Cause of the Company they are in. But when they have carried you to the very Point of Conviction, when Truth's auspicious Ray begins to dawn upon the Sight, and you think yourself secure of possessing that charming Goddess ; she is suddenly snatched from you, and you are again forced back through all the dark inexplicable Windings of Suspense.

But

But I am resolved to pursue her no longer: Let it be sufficient, that I have given a just Specimen of what I have been able to learn of these Academical Disputes; that I have endeavoured to awaken the publick Attention in an Affair of great and general Concern; and that I have done this, without giving Reason for Complaint to either of the *Parties*. For as far as my Memory and Apprehension may be depended upon, Justice has been done to the Arguments of them *both*.

But as neither of these are infallible, I will not answer that a true Judgment may be formed of the Merits of this Controversy, from the Materials here collected. Nor shall I endeavour to bias the Opinion of my Readers, by a Declaration in Favour of either Party. By this Means I am in Hopes of being well with *both*; without either meanly trimming between them, or setting by, an idle and unconcerned Spectator.

There

There is one Thing however, for which my Readers may expect some Apology should be made, before I take my Leave of them. They must perceive, that great Liberties have been taken on both Sides, as well in Judging of the Motives of their Adversaries Conduct, as of its Consequences: And some may think, that those Liberties are not only blameable in the Parties themselves, but that the Author of these Sheets, could have no sufficient Reason for making them publick.

The same Answer will, in a great Measure, serve for them and him. In their Defence it may be said, that Mens *Actions* are not less intimately connected with the *Motives* from which they spring, than the *Consequences* are with their *Actions*. That we have a Right, both of tracing out the Motives of each others Actions, and of divulging them, when they affect the publick Interest, as in many

Cases the *Consequences* of their Actions, and in all Cases the *Character* of the Agents, depend upon the *Motives* on which they proceed.

But all acknowledge it necessary to judge of the Characters of those with whom we are joined in Society ; and to search into the Tendency of their Actions : 'Tis true, this Right of Judging is of such a Kind, it must frequently be abused ; since a Want of proper Abilities, Natural or Moral, are sufficient to misguide our Opinions. But notwithstanding the particular Inconveniences it gives Rise to, the general Right cannot be given up.

It is enough, that they, who through Want of Honesty or Caution, abuse it, be branded with the Infamy they deserve. Would we know whether *either* of the *two Parties* in this Controversy are Guilty ? we must examine the Evidence, on which their Censures are founded. But whatever

ever the Determination may be, it cannot,
I am persuaded affect, our Author.

He, situated at a Distance, sees with infinite Concern, the intestine Feuds of a Society, in which he formerly has had the Honour to be a Member; and would now be the last Person living that should expose them, were he not, after mature Deliberation, convinced that both the *civil and religious Interests* of his Country require it.

F I N I S.



